

ACTION BY: Regional Directors  
Special Nutrition Programs

SOURCE CITATION: Section 245.8(b)

Prevention of Overt Identification

The National School Lunch Act (Act) requires schools to take whatever measures are necessary to assure that there is no overt identification of any child eligible for free or reduced price meals by special tokens, announced or published, lists of names, or by other means.

While appropriate measures to prevent overt identification will vary by school, the success of these measures can only be determined by the degree to which a free or reduced price meal recipient can be identified. Measures that are successful in one school may not be successful in another.

Generally, a school which has made tickets or tokens readily available to all students (i.e., free, reduced and full price) at the same time and place and has done a reasonable job of announcing ticket/token availability would have protected free and reduced price students from overt identification. If, however, such tickets or tokens are coded or colored in a manner which would overtly identify free and reduced price recipients, the resultant overt identification would be unacceptable.

A "reasonable" job of announcing ticket availability means that advertisements or announcements are made on a regular basis to the whole student body and none but the appropriate school officials know the extent of full price ticket sales. If the ticket/token system is not widely used by full price students, it is strongly recommended that schools consider such options as (1) offering a discount price on ticket purchases, (2) working with the local parent teacher organization to increase sales or (3) utilizing a different collection procedure.



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DISTRIBUTION: 5, 6, 12	MANUAL MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS: Remove FNS Instruction 765-3 from Manual. Insert this Instruction.	RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE: CND-100	3-19-86
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